

Name _____



What Do Meerkats Eat?

Meerkats are small, fascinating animals that live in southern Africa. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. Their diet helps them stay healthy and strong.

Meerkats mainly eat insects such as beetles, caterpillars, and grasshoppers. These bugs provide lots of protein, which gives meerkats energy to stay active. They also eat small mammals, reptiles, and birds. Sometimes, they catch small snakes, but only if they are not too dangerous.

Plants are also part of a meerkat's diet. They eat fruits, roots, and tubers, which help keep them hydrated in their dry desert homes. Meerkats do not need to drink water often because they get moisture from the food they eat.

To find food, meerkats use their sharp claws to dig in the sand. They have a great sense of smell, which helps them sniff out food hiding underground. Meerkats hunt during the day and take turns standing guard while others search for food. This teamwork keeps the group safe from predators while they eat.